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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 16

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

TUESDAY notebook

BREAKING NEWS

IRAQ CIVIL WAR LOOMING

ACCORDING TO CNN, KOFI ANON, THE UN CHIEF, THAT IRAQ IS IN "GRAVE DANGER" OF STARTING A CIVIL WAR AFTER A SUICIDE BOMBER KILLED 20 IN NORTHERN IRAQ ON MONDAY.

LIFE & STYLE

BAG, BORROW OR STEAL

FIND OUT ABOUT THE LENGTHS PEOPLE GO THROUGH TO GET "THAT" BAG, THE COUNTERFEITS AND MORE IN LIFE & STYLE. PG 10



TUES, 9/19:
T-SHOWERS
HIGH: 75, LOW: 59



WED, 9/20:
SUNNY
HIGH: 69, LOW: 53

Students Gamble With Safety for Cheap Rides

BY PHILLIP LUCAS
Contributing Writer

Most college students will do anything to save money. When traveling across the Mid-Atlantic states, many look for an alternative to high priced Amtrak tickets and moderate Greyhound fares. For years the answer has been the Chinatown bus.

The companies began business by catering to a mostly immigrant clientele who lived in New York City but worked in D.C. Word has spread about the companies who will now serve anyone with a few bucks and somewhere to go. For about a decade, college students and others with limited disposable income have flocked to these bus services to get where they're going.

The Chinatown bus fares are very competitive with other well-known travel services. This is presumably the leading factor in their popularity. A round trip ticket from D.C. to New York City on a Greyhound would cost \$69. The same trip on an Amtrak train would set a traveler back \$126. A round trip ticket to New York City on a Chinatown bus would cost only \$35 to \$40.

Chinatown buses ranked below the 60th percentile in the safety management and overall safety categories of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration bus safety evaluation. Some of the companies had ratings of 98 to 99 in the safety category with 100 being the lowest possible score. Many on a strict budget disregard the reputation of a company as long as they

can get a deal.

According to Nikole Pegues, a freshman print journalism major from Queens, N.Y., a Fung Wah bus drove "for a while" after it blew a tire on a New Jersey freeway earlier this month.

Last year, another bus caught on fire after crashing into a guard rail on the freeway, according to the New York Daily News. Shortly after the passengers were safely off the bus, it was engulfed in flames.

In Auburn, Mass., another Fung Wah bus from New York flipped over an exit ramp guard rail because the driver was going too fast en route to Boston, the Daily News Reported. Most of the passengers including small children were injured, but none were killed.

The incidents surely don't stop there. Kennedy Greenwood, a junior broadcast journalism major at Temple University, had a lot to say regarding her experience on the New Century bus line. Greenwood was once a frequent customer of the bus line.

"I can't even count how many times I

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Students receive tickets, much like the one above, to ride the Chinatown bus that travels to New York for a cheaper rate although the bus ranked in the below the 60 percentile for safety.

Photo courtesy of chinatownbuses.com

rode the bus," she said. "I used to hop on all the time." Greenwood's patronage to the company came to a screeching halt on her way to Philadelphia. She planned on traveling to visit her new apartment near her school, but the police had something else in mind—a surprise maintenance check. The officers got on the bus and told passengers that the buses wouldn't be moving anytime soon. Greenwood's curiosity took over and she went to find out why.

"The brake pads were being held together by wire hangers," she said. Later, she and others found out that the wire hangers were actually in place to keep the air in the tires. Greenwood also reported that the driver had broken commercial driving laws by working too many hours in one day.

After seeing that, the police officers begged passengers not to take

See CHINATOWN, METRO A4

Project Voice Educates Students On Constitutional Rights

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

Reminiscent of a hot and packed southern church during the civil rights movement, the Project Voice campaign hosted its first conference in Drew Hall last night. Project Voice, a student-run organization, was created by four Howard students to promote and educate students about their rights.

Their campaign runs on the bases of three phases.

"The first [phase] is getting students educated and registered to vote, the second is through 'We Got Issues,' in *The Hilltop* that allows students to argue about their political views, and the third is to stay politically active on campus," said Ethan Ashley, a junior political science major and chief of staff of Project Voice.

The audience, mainly underclassmen males and volunteers, for the organization handed out miniature copies of the U.S. Constitution along with the principles of Project Voice. They started by giving a basic overview of government policies that directly affect African Americans, like the Voting Act

of 1965.

Marcus Coleman, a junior management major and director of operations for Project Voice, noted that this Sunday marked the 219th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution and that we as "informed students" should know what is in there.

As the young men sat attentive and focused on the presentation, they didn't restrain from questioning the platforms and expressing their concerns about our government.

"Corruption is a sign of a larger problem... leaders are suppose to be masters and servers," Henry Onyeador, a freshman chemical engineering major, said.

The campaign started in Drew Hall, because the men who collectively formed Project Voice felt that young, black males are misrepresented in our society and need to take a stand.

"The federal government decides the interest rate for your loans, everything you do is governed by them, these elected officials that you don't vote for... so chew on that!" Nyron Crawford, junior political science major and project director of Project Voice, said.

Jabari Smith, Howard Undergraduate Trustee was present and thinks that Project Voice is vital to students understanding of the political arena.

"Project Voice is amazing, because it educates and encourages students about their political rights on campus and in the surrounding community. Young black men, especially, are mis- and underrepresented... they need to know that their voice is equally important to their female and white counterparts," Smith said.

Project Voice stressed the fortunate accessibility Howard students have to the most powerful government arenas and how little we use them.

"We at Howard have access to everything... the Capitol is a 30-minute walk, 20-minute metro ride, and a 5-minute drive. Your representatives are obligated to have an open door policy so we have no excuses," Coleman said.

Coleman also indicated statistics on the national income of African Americans and the incarceration rates of black males, which were both staggeringly high.

"The most important thing is that we vote informed. Choose reps that choose your best interest," Coleman said.

At the end of the session students were allowed to go to counters in the back of the room to find out about their district's candidates. They also were able to register to vote and consequently over 30 people registered in that one night.



Nicole Ryan - Contributing Photographer

Last night, Project Voice hosted its first conference in Drew Hall. The group promotes voter education.

United Assembly Brings Together Campus Organizations

BY ANYA L. ALEXANDER
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard University Student Association (HUSA)-sponsored fundraising initiative "10,000 Girls" called on organizational support at the United Assembly meeting yesterday.

Senior English major Jennifer Bryant, is the 10,000 Girls Initiative chairwoman. During the United Assembly's meeting yesterday, she and HUSA encouraged every campus organization to hold at least one fundraiser in support of the fundraising initiative until Feb. 20.

The organization is dedicated to assisting Senegalese girls who have the ambition, but lack the finances to

obtain an education. This initiative is a collaborative fundraising effort with Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark-Atlanta University. Howard's fundraising goal is to raise "\$10,000 for 10,000 Girls."

"I think this initiative is a great opportunity for Howard students to embrace the university's mission of leadership for America and the global community," Bryant said.

The United Assembly meets on the third Monday of every month.

It was created a year ago to organize and ensure that all campus organizations operated on a united agenda in promoting leadership, scholarship and service throughout the Howard University Community. Its main goal is to establish a University calendar

to display a schedule of campus-wide events and activities.

The campus has more than 160 organizations. In the past, said Ashley Smith, president of United Assembly, many organizations held similar community service events or social gatherings that could have been co-sponsored to save money and achieve greater student participation.

"My goal is to minimize organizations but still promote leadership and service throughout the University and to promote the use of the University calendar," Smith said. "I plan to take it to the next level by making sure that students feel that the United Assembly is at the forefront of leadership on campus." Smith feels this year all of the orga-

nizations are under great leadership. The University calendar will be accessible on the HUSA Web site.

Each organization is required to attend five meetings to meet the eligibility requirements for the Bison Ball.

According to Virginia Hall, Co-Director of Programs, there is much to look forward to when it comes to Bison Ball this year, as organizations can expect to see three new categories added to the awards presentation. The United Assembly is proud to announce that Community Service Organization of the Year, State Club of the Year, and Graduate Bison and Bisonette of the Year are the new changes.

"I hope that this year with the

changes more applications will be submitted and people will participate in the excellence awards because the chances of winning are greater," Hall said.

At the beginning of the Assembly meeting, HUSA President Jennifer Owens began a petition to gain student and faculty support to get improved conditions in the dark-rooms for photography students.

According to a number of photography students and photography coordinator Colette Veasey-Cullors, all of the photography classes for Fall 2006 have been halted until further notice. Owens was enrolled for one of those classes.

Several TV Stations in Dorms Malfunctioning

BY DREW COSTLEY
Campus Editor

William Roberts, a junior political and public policy major, and president of the College of Arts and Sciences was angry when he first started having problems with a few of the television stations in his Howard Plaza West Towers dorm room.

Roberts said that he was angry when he missed "a bunch of shows." He arrived in his room almost three weeks ago to find that the cable cord in his room had fallen out of his wall completely.

Roberts, who has since learned to cope with the problem after multiple attempts to contact ISAS to get the problem fixed, said that he could not get any channels after that.

ISAS has known of the problem since April.

"We have determined that most if not all of the Cable-TV hardware infrastructure requires maintenance and/or replacement, and the fiber-optics [cable] that connects the hardware requires maintenance," said Clinton Walker, Director of ISAS.

ISAS has had problems with the volume of issues that students have had with their various technology. ISAS said that they are continuing to work on finding a new system to address all of the issues.

"We are designing a new infrastructure to address all issues," said Clinton Walker. "In the interim, ISAS and appropriate engineering consultants are addressing these problems."

ISAS said that this problem, which Howard students have been dealing with since the Spring 2005 semester, was being addressed when they first cropped up.

Now, the University's technology maintenance crew is saying that they are still dealing with the problem and enlisting additional resources to help with the problem.

"ISAS is securing additional professional assistance and replacing malfunctioning hardware to restore the reception for failing channels among the commercial signals at all campus

facilities," Walker said.

Roberts said that after trying to contact ISAS multiple times to get the problem resolved, he ended his attempt in frustration.

"It seemed like no one knew what they were talking about," Roberts said.

"I kept getting passed around the ISAS office and to the front desk of the I-Lab."

He said that now that he has decided to deal with the problem, he just goes to a friend's room, if he really wants to watch something.

Although there are many residents of campus dorms experiencing these problems, not everyone has them. Francis Roberts, a sophomore international business major, said that his room's cable has been fully functional since he moved into his room in the East Towers.

"I haven't tried every single channel, but they all work," said Roberts, whose room has since become a bastion to his friends who have problems with their cable.

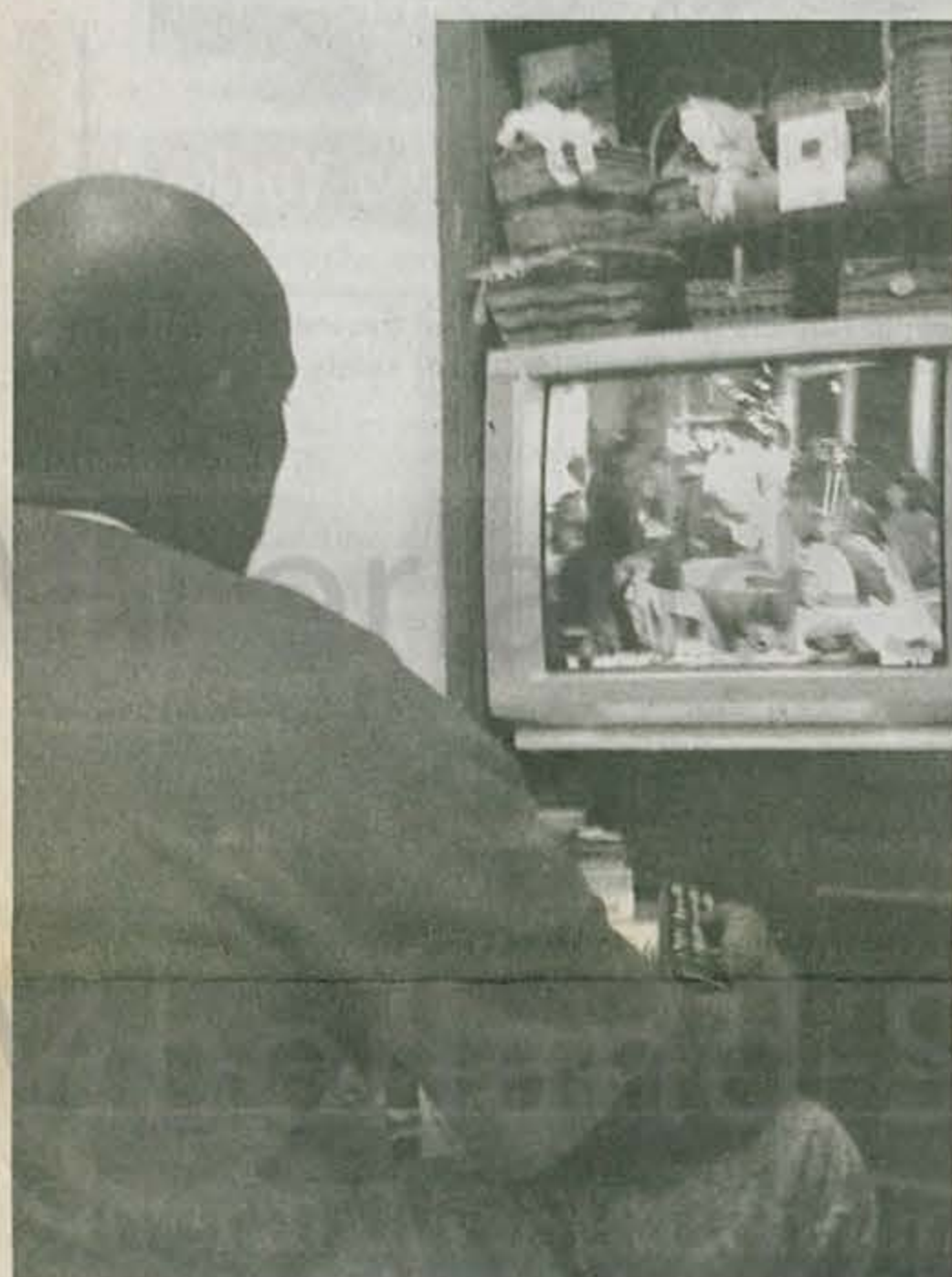
"My friends have problems so they just come to my room to watch what they want."

Roberts thinks that it is unacceptable that a University with such resources cannot provide for its residents.

"It's a little annoying that I can't have my television to myself," Roberts said.

"But it's worse that a University that has billions and billions of dollars cannot hire the capable staff to fix mundane problems like this."

- Anya L. Alexander, a Hilltop Staff Writer, and Andrew Moten, a contributing writer, both contributed to this report.



Students in the Bethune Annex, The Howard Plaza Towers and Meridian Hill Hall have flipped to some of their favorite television stations, only to find out that they do not have sound. Other students have had to had their cable jacks replaced and have had to deal with delayed responses from ISAS.

The Campus section is looking for STAFF WRITERS!!!

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What's In A Name?

A Look at the Namesakes of Howard University



Douglass Hall

In honor of one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement stands Howard University's Frederick Douglass Memorial Hall. Erected in 1935 and opened in 1936, Frederick Douglass Hall is a symbol of loyalty and honor to a once active member and trustee of the University.

Born into slavery on the Eastern shore of Maryland in 1818, Frederick Douglass is a prominent leader of African-American history. Praised internationally for his eloquence, Douglass lectured throughout the U.S. and England on the immorality of slavery. As a publisher of the North Starr and an advisor to President Lincoln, Douglass' views on anti-slavery influenced thousands and helped lay the groundwork for today's history.

In 1936, Howard University would commemorate Douglass' contribution to history in the form of Douglass Hall.

Articheet, planner and entrepreneur Albert Cassell sketched the blue print of Douglass Hall. Cassell joined the Architecture Department of Howard University in 1920 as an assistant professor. Between 1921 and 1939, Cassell purchased the surrounding land of Howard's campus. In addition to Douglass Hall, Cassell's signature style resonates in: the Medical School, the Dining Hall, Burr Gymnasium, the Stadium, the Chemistry Building, three major dormitories, the Power Plant, and Founders Library.

Originally, Douglass Hall housed the Education, History, and the Psychology departments. Douglass Hall is now home to the social science departments: African American studies, African studies, economics, sociology, anthropology, history, and political science.

-Compiled by
Christian Montgomery
-Contributing Writer

Attention!!!

ROTC Office in Douglass Basement is Hidden Enclave in Historic Building

At one point or another, every Howard student has stepped foot onto the first, second, or third floor of Douglass Hall, but what most students do not know is that there is a basement level in Douglass Hall. This level is dedicated to the ROTC department.

University of South Carolina graduate, Captain Eric Graham, explained that Howard University has one of the oldest and most credible ROTC programs. In fact Howard's ROTC program trained several WWII engineers.

"This program has a great history that dates back to 1917. Our leading organizations are Ranger Challenge, Color Guard, and the nationally-ranked sorority, Pershing Angels and fraternity, Pershing Rifles, of which former Secretary of State, Colin Powell was a member," Graham said.

Down the hall from the ROTC office is the Cadet Lounge which was recently updated with a new plasma television. Just behind the Cadet Lounge is a computer lab furnished with six fairly new computers. The students use this equipment to organize annual events such as the Bowling Green trip. Captain Graham believes this program is one best offered on Howard's campus.

"It is a program of management and leadership," he said.

To encourage man-

agement and leadership skills, participating students receive a substantial monthly stipend.

"For the most part, ROTC students only assume about \$1000 of their tuition."

The ROTC program offers 90 percent of its students scholarships, covering tuition and fee expenses. \$2000 is given to the students for room and board, while \$900 is set aside for books.

While there are many misconceptions about army-related programs, Captain Graham wants the general public to know that the ROTC is not one of them.

"We are not in the business of taking students out of college, we're trying to keep them in," he said.

The National Guard and the Army Reserves are two programs which recruits students for such purposes. The ROTC contract states that completion of college courses is priority.

Ascending the fourteen stairs you realize each step holds its own character: Discipline, Ethics, Professionalism, Loyalty, Motivation, Excellence, Morale, Integrity, Leadership, Country, Honor, Duty, Bison, and lastly Howard University.

-Compiled by
Christian Montgomery
-Contributing Writer

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Two Schools Revolutionize Education for Kids

BY BRITTANY LUSE
Contributing Writer

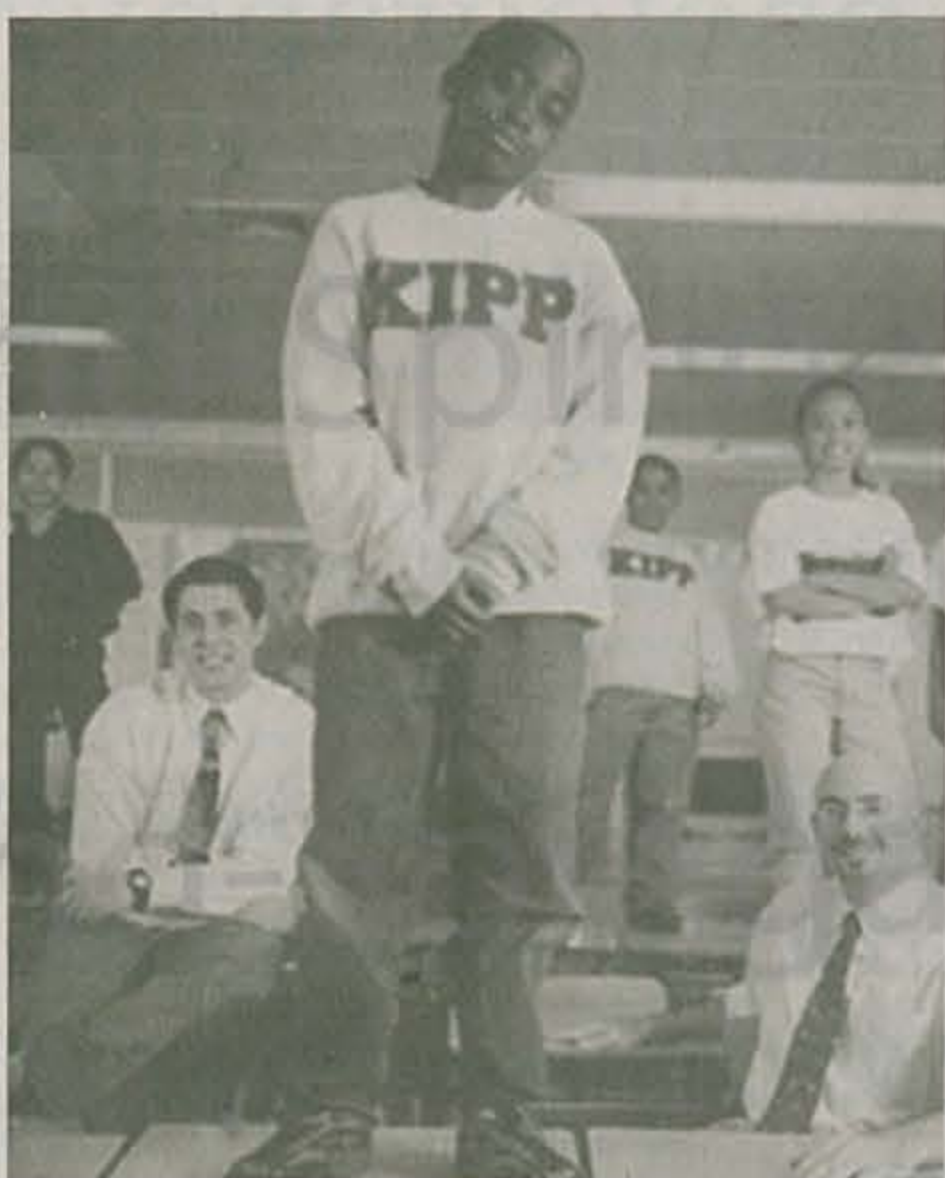
For a district where the No Child Left Behind Act has been particularly unkind, changes for the better at some DC schools are definitely welcome news. Nearly everyone at Brightwood Elementary and KIPP D.C.: Will Academy feels hopeful about the 2006-2007 school year.

That's because the schools opened on Aug. 28 with \$15.5 million in renovations at Brightwood and the addition of an intense but successful charter school program at KIPP D.C., which stands for Knowledge Is Power Program.

Both sites have become model elementary schools for the city. And for a school system trying to rebuild its reputation, this is no easy task. More than half of D.C.'s public schools are failing under the No Child Left Behind Act. Raw numerical data indicates that enrollment in some schools has decreased to upsetting levels, and college admissions test scores have dropped.

Jessica Cunningham, founder and principal of KIPP D.C., is more than willing to step up to the challenge of running a rigorous charter school modeled after one that originated in New York. Cunningham doesn't lack in credentials, either. After a stint as a D.C. Teaching Fellow, she taught sixth grade math and seventh grade English at another KIPP D.C. school before her appointment to lead KIPP D.C.: Will Academy, located in Shaw.

The KIPP lifestyle involves a



KIPP and Brightwood Elementary School use new model for education that involves alternative teaching methods to increase student achievement in D.C. schools.

six-day school week, a month of instruction in the summer, and chanting and dancing in the classroom—all to raise standardized test scores in low-income areas.

Will Academy, the third school of its kind to open in Washington, is on the second floor of Scott Montgomery Elementary. The two schools not only share a building, but they also share some of KIPP's teaching methods. With former Montgomery fourth-graders taking up more than 20 percent of KIPP's

student population, the integration makes sense. The school plans to add one grade level each year until it services fifth through eighth grade.

So far, KIPP schools in 16 states have experienced success rates unheard of for urban public schools or any school. In Washington, Stanford 9 reading scores rose from the 23rd to 71st percentile between fall 2001 and spring 2005. Cunningham claims that the Will Academy kids are already getting in the KIPP spirit.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DCCOUNCIL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

"We weren't really aiming to be better or worse than the children's previous programs," Cunningham said. "We offer a different learning culture," a culture to which the kids are "definitely responsive."

The KIPPsters and administrators aren't nervous about the attention their school has garnered. "With or without the school board looking, we expect our all of students and staff to be excellent."

Brightwood Elementary, a now-gleaming building at 13th and

Nicholson Streets in Northwest, underwent a different kind of structural change. DC public schools spent \$15.5 million on Brightwood, creating what Superintendent Clifford B. Janey hopes will be the beginning of a \$1 billion school renovation plan.

Although "wet paint" signs still hang from the walls, the school possesses undeniable beauty. From its front hall, bright with ample sunlight coming through its large windows, to the addition of a parent center and gymnasium, Brightwood families and staff have much to smile about lately.

These newly revamped schools are just two examples of the wave of optimism that DCPS official predict will become district-wide. Along with the \$1 billion renewal plan, the District intends to extend educational sovereignty to 10 more schools in the area next year. The independence will allow for experimentation with unconventional classroom methods to spike students' performance on standardized tests, as well as in class.

Plans to revamp Southeast's Anacostia and Ballou high schools are to be announced next month. These schools were given failing grades under No Child Left Behind.

Whether the NCLB numbers are completely accurate remains up for debate. Some educators hope that all of these transformations add up to one bright future for District schools.



BACK ON THE BLOCK: Columbia Heights



BY ASHLEY TANNEHILL
Contributing Writer

Columbia Heights, an area of Ward 1 that is defined by 16th Street to the west and Georgia Avenue to the east, has endured burgeoning retail and residential construction since the opening of the Columbia Heights Metro Station in 1999.

The metro station, which was said to be "a catalyst for the return of economic development and residents," has helped promote Columbia Heights, once slowed with economic baggage, into a flourishing business and residential center.

The central D.C. neighborhood has received an outbreak of offers from residential and commercial builders; therefore, exhibiting a more than doubled number of potential development sites. The area has been greeted with establishments such as a Giant Food supermarket and Tivoli Square, a commercial shopping and entertainment complex.

Five partially constructed condominiums that peak into the Columbia Heights skyline are in such high demand that many have already been purchased although not yet completed. The neighborhood

also expects a new Target in 2008.

Not far behind the development came newcomers with characteristics and backgrounds that set the pace of "a new beginning." However, this new beginning is being regarded by some residents with displeasure.

"There are a lot of single, homosexual men moving in," One Brooks, a community and political activist who has lived in Columbia Heights for 18 months, said in response to the young professional crowd that is flocking to the area.

"This is a family oriented neighborhood," Brooks explained. "The men flaunt their homosexuality in public, which makes the residents feel uncomfortable."

Other residents, such as 26-year-old Sarah Johnson, who has lived in Columbia Heights for six months, felt this type of diversity was an incentive for her recent move from Adams Morgan, a neighboring community.

"There is a lot of cultural diversity and ethnic restaurants," Johnson said, "and this cultural diversity adds to the value of a community."

The new face of Columbia Heights has also



Photo Courtesy of www.dcgentrification.com

Several new businesses and an influx of residents with higher incomes demonstrate the economic renaissance of the Columbia Heights area.

benefited school-aged children. Johnson appreciates the recent opening of E.L. Haynes Charter School, which provides a high standard of education for her three children, she believes.

The charter school attempts to improve its curriculum each year, positions two teachers in each class-

room and consistently adds bilingual staff members.

At Capitol City Public Charter School, communications coordinator Robin Harris, notes that her school has seen an improvement of test scores.

"I haven't noticed a difference in the children, but parents who are applying

have a higher income," said Harris, 34, who has worked in Columbia Heights for seven years.

Brooks estimates that the new, young professionals earn an average \$100,000 annually and says that Columbia Heights has "gentrified considerably."

Residents such as 20-

year-old Pedro, who declined to give his last name, has lived in Columbia Heights since birth and has uncertain feelings toward the new demographic. He appreciates the transition of the street where he owns a local restaurant. The street, which was once notorious for drugs and murder, has become less dangerous because of the decreasing Columbia Heights crime rate.

However, both he and Brooks view the financial situation with mutual dissatisfaction. Not only has the neighborhood experienced an increase in property taxes, but several black-owned businesses have closed.

"Where do we go from here?" Brooks asked. "We live here. We work here. And now we can't afford to live here."

As Columbia Heights grows, the diversity deepens, and as in any growing city, residents expect representatives to adequately address the disparity between the old and new.

Chinatown Buses Accused of Hazardous Operations

CHINATOWN, from Campus A1

the bus to Philadelphia, but to wait for a replacement and to get a refund.

"We were on the corner for one, maybe one and a half hours," Greenwood said.

Greenwood recalled the ticket sales agent's stingy attitude toward refunds, offering only half compensation. But the presence of police persuaded the agent to happily hand over the full purchase amount for each customer.

The recent accidents and injuries bring the reliability of the companies into question.

"The one I take [Premium Bus] is reliable," Pegues said. "I'd most definitely take it again. Greyhound and Amtrak are too expensive."

Greenwood hasn't counted the Chinatown bus out of her future traveling options. "If times are hard, I might take one and pray real hard. Only if I was in dire need and had to get somewhere."

Otherwise, her advice is to wait until you can afford a ticket with more reliable companies such as Greyhound and pay the difference.

One of the main issues concerning the reliability of the buses is that the companies have a limited number of vehicles. Additionally,

the buses that are in operation are said to be poorly maintained.

In the case of an accident resulting in injury, passengers might be responsible for their own damages and injuries since the companies buy minimal insurance that may not cover every situation.

The Chinatown bus companies are also rumored to be indifferent to speed limits and passenger security.

"Sometimes they do go kind of fast," Pegues said. "If the speed limit is 80 miles an hour, a bus shouldn't even be going that fast." The companies also overlook security. The only time Pegues had her

I.D. checked to board a Chinatown bus was on her first trip. She has ridden the bus five times this year. With buses pulling in and out of locations like New York and the District, it would be expected that passengers would routinely have their I.D. checked.

Representatives from the various bus companies were asked for interviews regarding their services, but none would comment for publication of this article.

Pegues, Greenwood and many other students heard about the Chinatown buses through word of mouth. Various web sites of the bus companies can be found by

searching "Chinatown Bus."

If students are looking for a deal and don't mind taking a bit of a gamble with their safety, a Chinatown bus may be the way to go. If reliable customer service and a proven track record are more to their liking, it might be better to catch a Greyhound on the next trip.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

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08/30/06	67701P11467J90228	BARBER SHOP	FRESH CUT BALDY			\$15.00
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Sports Teams Missing From Howard's Roster

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

Over the years, Howard has prided itself on pioneering several black, athletic teams.

Howard is the home of the country's only all-black women's lacrosse team, and is one of only two historically black universities to have a Division I swim team.

Although Howard has broken many barriers in black athletics, some feel that the University is missing sports teams that other universities have on their campus.

Baseball, wrestling, and field hockey are teams that are typically found on campuses of non-HBCU schools.

Howard did in fact have both a baseball team and a wrestling team, but both were replaced with women's lacrosse and bowling within the last decade due to Title IX.

Although Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination in education and education-related programs, was the reason these sports were removed from Howard athletics, there were other factors that caused the university to drop those teams specifically.

"We used to have a baseball team, but we dropped it because we do not have a field to play on," said Athletic Facilities Director Isaac Darden. "The team would have to travel 25 minutes away to [Maryland] to play their games, which was not practical."

Even with the loss of baseball and wrestling, Howard still has 19 sports teams on campus, which is quite a few when compared to other schools in the DC area.

However, schools like George Washington, Georgetown and American all have sports like crew and field hockey in common.

Junior classical civilizations major



Photo courtesy of HU Men's Lacrosse

The Howard men's lacrosse club is not currently recognized by the NCAA. The club competes in the National College Lacrosse League.

Tiffany Noelle Jenkins attempted to start a field hockey team at Howard two years ago.

"The interest meeting that I held was pretty unsuccessful," she said. "There was a very low turn out."

"I wanted to start the team because of my love for the sport and contrary to the belief that field hockey is a 'white' sport, there are a lot of African Americans that play," Jenkins said.

Jenkins tried to start a club team

her freshmen year because she felt that it would be a great addition to the teams, especially since lacrosse has already been added. Jenkins said now that she has better resources and better publicity, she would like to try again.

"I plan to charter the first all-black collegiate field hockey team," Jenkins said.

Many students try to start up club teams on campus every year.

Two years ago the men's lacrosse

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TODAY'S GAMES

Volleyball @ Maryland Eastern Shore
7 p.m.

club was started on campus and has had a lot of success since they started.

However, many of these sports are club teams and have to go through a long process to become an official NCAA sport.

They also have to fit within the Title IX regulations which would mean for every men's team added, there must also be a women's team to go along with it.

"Adding new teams is also very costly," Darden said.

Meanwhile, the men's lacrosse club has begun practicing for its upcoming season which will begin in February.

"I wanted to start the team because of my love for the sport..."

- Jenkins, '08

Around the MEAC



Bethune-Cookman College quarterback Jarod Rucker and his teammate, free safety Bobbie Williams were named MEAC offensive and defensive players of the week, respectively, as the Wildcats defeated South Carolina State, 45-21.

Rucker completed 22-of-27 passes for a career-high 367 yards and five touchdowns. Williams picked off two interceptions.

They were joined by kicker Jesus Cortez and center Deron Barnes, who received honorable mentions

Bison Volleyball Hits Road to Face UMES in First MEAC Away Match

BY JULIANNE HANCKEL
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Lady Bison volleyball team travels to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) today to play the Lady Hawks in their first away game of regular season MEAC conference play.

The Hawks are ranked fifth in the MEAC standings, with Howard ranking ninth.

The Lady Bison improved their record to 2-6 last week with a 3-0 sweep against the Coppin State Eagles.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Hawks ended a seven match losing streak with a 3-0 conference victory over Hampton; the win improves UMES to a record of 4-7 (1-0 MEAC).

"We've been trying to come into every game with a 'we can do this' attitude....I guess it worked for us," said senior libero Vanessa Hubbard.

Every serve and spike is critical to determining what should come next, and during last week's game against

Coppin, the Bison showed improvement.

Hubbard and head coach Orlando Larracuente share the same ideas.

"I am excited about our first season win," Larracuente said. "You always need to start in the right frame of mind."

The Bison are not the only team working to improve their skills, however.

According to MEAC Sports, the Hawks have been running practices in order to improve their defense.

Their hard work showed in their 3-0 sweep against Hampton, whose record moved to 1-5 after last Tuesday's game.

Some members of the Bison volleyball team have already had impressive games since the beginning of the season.

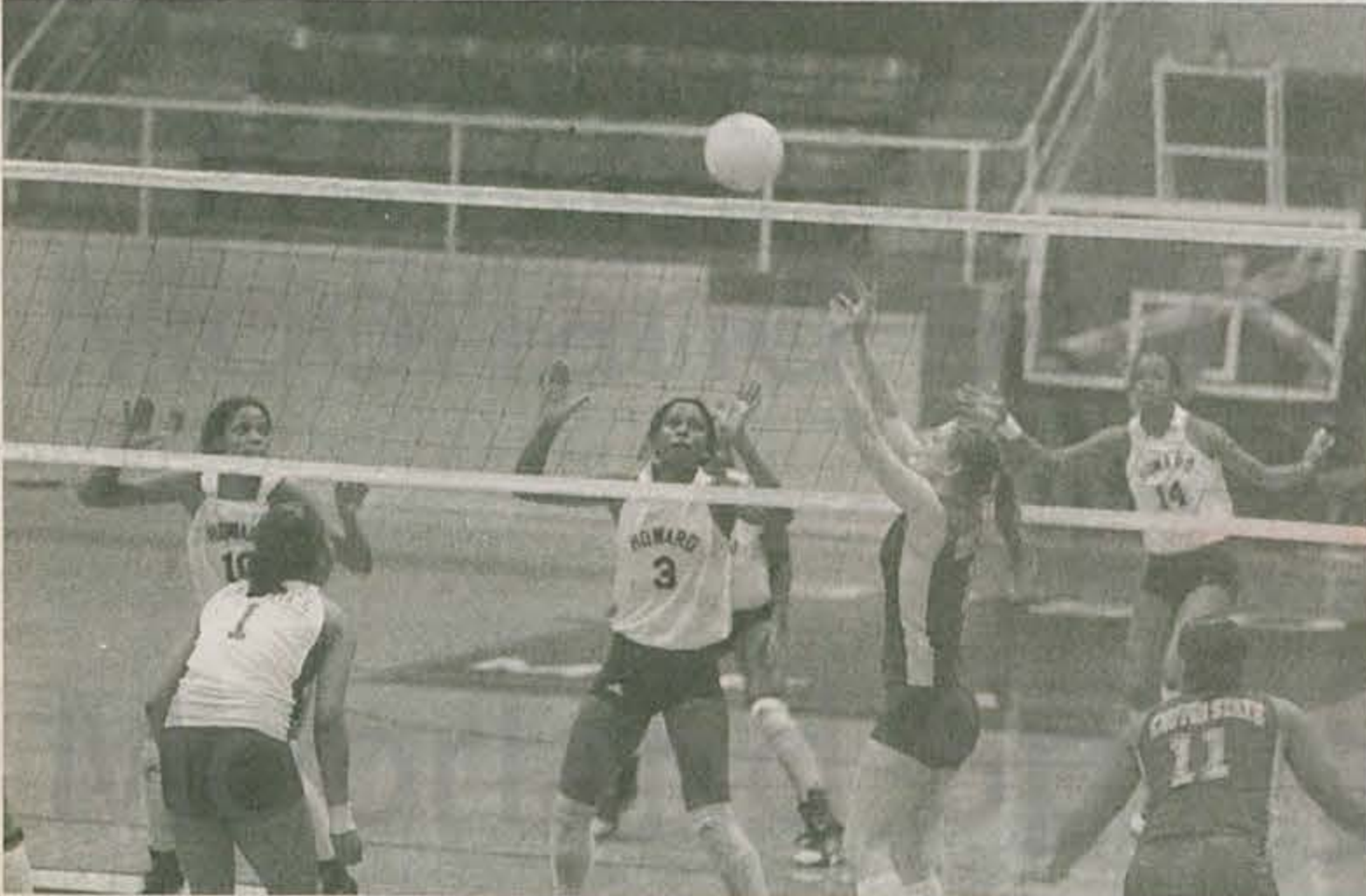
In the beginning of September, sophomore outside hitter, Janel James, a 5'9 Chicago native, was named to the American University

Volleyball Classic All-Tournament Team.

During the last game against Coppin State's Lady Eagle's, James was good for a solid 14 points to help lead the Bison to victory.

During September of last year, the Bison picked up their first MEAC season win against the Hawk's with a score of 3-2. When the Bison and the Hawks met again in October of last year, the Hawks pulled out with the 3-1 win over the Bison.

Winning the season opener last Tuesday was an important boost for the Bison because, as Hubbard explains, "The first win always determines how the season will play out."



File photo

The Lady Bison volleyball team get ready to defend, as they will today against the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore in their first conference away match of the season.

Clarett Agrees to Plea Deal



Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

Former Ohio State football star Maurice Clarett, 26, agreed to a plea deal yesterday for robbery and concealed weapon charges against him. He was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison with a possible release after 3 1/2 years, and five years probation.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On September 19, 1876, the funeral of President William McKinley canceled 11 baseball games.



He Said

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She Said



Video Games

I definitely would not consider myself to be a serious, avid gamer, considering I haven't bought a new game since 2004.

In fact, my Playstation 2 broke last year and instead of getting it fixed I bought a DVD player because that is all I was really using the system for anyway. And I have probably played an mjhj about a grand total of ten times in my entire life and only to play "Halo."

With that out of the way, it is clear that on the topic of video games I am going to have to take a step outside myself and play the devil's advocate.

Games of today catch a lot of criticism for being too violent and immoral but those who spout this disapproval are not seeing the perspective of the gamer.

A game that allows you to commit violent acts on the screen is not validating crime, it is giving that little rebel inside of us all the chance to revolt against authority in a safe, simulated environment.

The only real trouble comes when these games are exposed to those who are too impressionable for the mature subject matter. But that is not the fault, nor the responsibility, of the

studios that make these violent games.

The blame should fall on the parents. Since when do we, as a society, allow parents to get away with not parenting. I played safe, non-threatening games like Mario Brothers and Madden because my parents did not even allow me to play games that were rated "mature" until I was mature enough to legally buy them myself.

Often these negative claims are made without making an argument for the positive aspects. Video games are a great recreational activity for many reasons. There is always the improved hand-eye coordination.

First of all they are therapeutic. While playing a game you can become completely immersed in a fantasy world where you can forget about that assignment due at 8:10 in the morning and take your mind off of worrying about whether or not your refund check is coming though. They also allow you to do things in the game that you could never do in real life or would never do in reality.

With such in-depth gaming experiences on the market today, it is easy for a guy to get caught up in one.

Stuff like this happens...it's nothing personal. People on both sides of the gender divide often get wrapped up in temporary obsessions when they are brand new, whether it's a new game, or a new season of "America's Next Top Model."

The best way to combat this "temporary obsession" is to join in. There are many passionate gamers of the fairer sex. Who knows, the next one may be you!



Photo Courtesy of www.umich.edu

I just wanna know what happened to the good ol' days of video games?

What happened to the days when you just had to jump over some blocks, collect some coins and save a princess?

Why is it no longer sufficient to gorge oneself on dots without being eaten by the little blinky people?

Is there really a need to pull up a parking meter and beat down a prostitute? Would life be that much

less grand if there were no outlet to crash a car into someone's bedroom, jump out, and shoot them in the head?

I really would love to know where video games went astray. It could have been when society became more and more desensitized to sex and violence, but that seems like it may be a trite passing of the buck.

Is it the fault of the developers or the consumers? It all seems to be some sort of sad downward spiral that will one day lead to us being able to "virtually" kill someone and get all the real sensory experiences one would expect from murder without any of the hassle of an impending trial and incarceration.

Advances in the technology are to be expected as time marches on, but does the content have to get darker and darker as a reflection of the increasing shadow over our dealings with one another on a personal, national and international level?

Just because the world is at war doesn't mean that one out of every three new games has to be some rhetoric-filled military operation. An increase in the crime rate

doesn't call for an increase in the rate of production of violent games.

I don't know if it's necessarily a gender issue, because there are probably girls who want to play these ridiculous depictions of man's inhumanity, but from what I've seen, it's mostly men playing these games.

It's been said that without men, there would be no war, and while that is probably untrue, I do think their absence would probably change the gore and violence involved in the endeavor. Can we please get a game that exercises the mind instead of the malicious part of our nature?

And though it's unrelated to my moral crusade thus far, I think it's utterly deplorable and downright icky that some boys think that a new video game is an excuse to not call your significant other for a week. If I got new shoes, you'd be downright upset if I ignored your calls so I could go out and walk around in them and what not.

So, let's practice some responsibility in our purchase of and reaction to said games and gaming systems.

From the Minds of Joshua Thomas & Jana Homes

Howardite Horoscopes

Overview: Today's dramatic Leo Moon leads us through a series of twists and turns as it contacts optimistic Jupiter and confusing Neptune while heading toward a late-night run-in with realistic Saturn. We may feel buffeted about by the onslaught of changes now. Instead of feeling the fun loving side of this playful Moon, we must set our sights on what we want and then hold strong to our vision as the emotional roller coaster takes us up and down.

Aries: Schedule your social plans carefully, for you may inadvertently commit to conflicting engagements. If there are two meetings at 7-ish, clearly you can't make both... make a choice.

Taurus: Family members may now be the source of your current dilemma as they present you with an idea that is attractive at first. Just because these are people you trust doesn't mean that you should go into a situation blindly. Stop, think about it.

Gemini: It may be quite effortless now to just do your job and yet not do a whole lot of work. Keep in mind classes get harder after homecoming so your hard work now will pay off later.

Cancer: You might be feeling pretty sure of yourself, believing that you are going to have fun, but things may not turn out as planned. Everything that glitters isn't gold and don't worry if things fall through it won't last long anyway.

Leo: Quit frontin', you know you want it. You are tempting yourself with daydreams of romantic love. Try sharing a few of your fantasies with a sweetheart or close friend. Even though things might not happen right away, this isn't the best time to hide your true feelings.

Virgo: You know what they say, "you catch more flies with sugar than...". Sometimes it's a challenge for you to be sweet if you don't feel it. Now, however it's crucial to be gracious and kind in all your communications.

Libra: Your creativity is emphasized today as you seek ways to manifest beauty around you, both in your interactions with others and in whatever you choose to make. Now is the perfect time to start shopping for that new fall wardrobe you've been daydreaming about.

Scorpio: While things may be running smoothly in the social spheres of work and community, your personal relationships may now be the source of confusion. You know what you want, but it's not clear how to get there. Don't rush, because everything will become clear shortly.

Sagittarius: Your dreams of the future may be a source of personal inspiration, but they are also the source of a real problem. Believe it or not, not everybody cares to know about the jobs you have lined up for next year. Share a little less and smile about it a little more.

Capricorn: Remember, just a small acknowledgment of reality will go a long way. Pay close attention to boundaries, and remember them even when the lines seem blurred.

Aquarius: Today your resistance to change is being tested. Even if it hasn't happened yet, a change is coming. Relax, and let it flow. Act rationally.

Pisces: A current work situation may give you a sense of unreality. Come back down to earth, and make sure your goals are attainable. This is a tricky situation, because you can be let down when you realize that you missed your chance because you misinterpreted the events.

Adapted from Horoscopes courtesy tarot.com

Overheard @ The Mecca

'That's like going to Bobby Brown's Dentist'
Overheard in the School of Communications

Girl1: Susan Taylor just needs to get a fade

Girl2: Nooo. I LOVE Susan. Don't say that. Her hairstylist has her own show.

Girl1: What? I wouldn't go to her.

Girl2: Naw she's done a lot of famous people's hair. She did, dang, what's his name. (girl struggles to remember name) oh, she even did Miles Davis's hair.

Girl3: So you want a greasy curl with a swoop?

'Hilltop Truth #1'
Overheard in the Hilltop Office.

Hilltopper #1: There's no spin on the story.
Hilltopper #2: But there will be a color wheel!

Check out more at Overheardatthamecca.blofspot.com and submit to Overheardatthamecca@gmail.com

Please send any responses to Meccanisms, 'He Said . . . She Said' topics, 'Chillin' With The Hilltop' photos, and 'Ask The Hilltop' questions to meccanisms@gmail.com

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EDITORIALS

& Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 16

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

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Punch-Out: Step Up

Waiting outside a crowded hot spot for someone to come out just so you can go in was what not what Howard students experienced when they went to see Ludacris at LOVE on Friday night.

But being forced outside for crowd control and waiting for other students to leave was what it took to get in the Punch-Out earlier Friday afternoon.

We understand that fire hazards limit the number of people allowed on the campus hub on the lower level of Blackburn. But this wasn't entirely the case. The doors of the Punch-Out were closed because only one register was open and students were beginning to steal food because the line was so long.

Of all days and of all times that traffic at our beloved Punch-Out is at its peak is

Friday at lunch time. That's why it makes no sense that a facility that has been upgraded with two working registers would have only one register open during the height of the

to the staffing. Students should not have to interrupt the conversations of workers to have their order taken.

The work ethic we are trained to continue when we leave this campus should be reflected in the services we receive now.

In addition, upkeep is also a must to keep the Punch-Out going strong until the next round of renovations. Soda machines should have all the flavors they advertise—not just watered-down Pepsi in all the spouts.

We, as students, are also challenged to do our part to make sure the Punch-Out upkeep is on point. And part of the way to make that happen is to demand more from our campus eatery. So *The Hilltop* will take the first step. Punch-Out ... Step Up!

Our View:

We were all grateful for the upgrade, but we ask that they use their resources and upgrade customer service as well.

business.

We aren't asking for additions to the Punch-Out; just a reorganization of the staff and resources that we do have. We don't need three workers at 9 p.m., but we do need them during peak lunch hours.

We appreciate the renovations the Punch-Out has received over the last few years, but we must ask that those upgrades also be applied

Perspective: What Has Happened to Hip-Hop?

Some people may say that I am hating, but actually I am not. It just makes me mad to watch the music I grew up on and loved so much become something dreadful to listen to. Since the invasion of "Down South" rap, hip-hop has steadily declined in the lyrical department as well as in creativity.

Don't get me wrong; not all southern rappers are bad. I personally like to listen to Lil' Wayne, whom I liked before "Tha Carter," and Outkast, who are true hip-hop artists. Outkast officially put down south rap on the map with their debut classic "Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik."

Today's rap is more commercial than ever. It seems like every song that comes out now is accompanied by a dance move. From a motorcycle dance to the shoulder lean and it keeps getting worse and worse. Honestly, I would not

be surprised if the group The Time came back out with "The Bird." If you have seen "Purple Rain," you know what I mean.

I don't understand how people can listen to or enjoy any music from Rick Ross, Young Jeezy, Young Joe, Chingy, T.I., Lil Jon, should I go on? I will not even get into their singles. Last week, I wore a shirt with the phrase "I Used to Love H.E.R.," hoping to get a certain response.

People gave me a lot of responses, but took the phrase for what it says and not for what it really means. But one girl from Chicago picked up on it. It is actually one of greatest rap songs ever and was written by Common Sense (his original moniker) called "I Used to Love H.E.R." and in this he referred to hip-hop as a girl and how he used to love "HER" until she sold out for money.

Now you can barely catch me

listening to new rap songs unless it's from one of the few good rappers left like Eminem, Styles P, or Jadakiss. Mostly, I listen to old-jies like the Isley Brothers, Prince, Teddy Pendergrass; I could go on forever.

But the next time you find yourself about to get a Young Joe CD or Rick Ross CD, put it back down and pick up a CD you probably never heard before like Common's "Resurrection," Lost Boyz's "Legal Drug Money," Boogie Down Productions' "Criminal Minded," A Tribe Called Quest's "The Low End Theory" or Ghostface's "Ironman," just to name a few.

And remember this rap line from Jay-Z: "Do you fools listen to music, or do you just skim through it?"

Raymond Taylor is a sophomore transfer student from Philadelphia.

Daily Sudoku

Directions: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

					4		8	
				1		6		
9	6			8		5	1	
		3	8		2			
2			5		1			7
			7		3	6		
1	8		2				7	9
	2			8				
5		6						

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THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 83rd year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

The Way I See It ...

Here Comes the Bride...



BY CIARA FAMBLE
Life & Style Editor

Is it just me, or is everyone getting married these days? Now for those of you who are devoted fans of my colleague Jana Homes' column of the same name, don't worry. I'm not taking her tagline. But I am genuinely surprised by recent developments and wanted to know if it is only me who is feeling this way.

I was recently on Facebook perusing the photos of some of my friends and associates when I noticed that a girl I've known since freshman year was engaged. I thought nothing of it, except to be happy for her. I sent her a note of congratulations and moved on to something else. But soon after, I noticed more and more of my friends were changing their relationship status from "In a Relationship" to "Engaged," and it isn't a joke.

I'm extremely excited for these couples, but it brings to mind yet another unexpected-part of senior year: People are actually growing up. Instead of 'playing' about getting married, people I know actually are. It blows my mind that anyone my age is ready to make that commitment. These soon-to-be marriages are concrete evidence that we are actually adults.

Weddings have been occasional parts of my life since I was young. They come once every few years or so, like a lunar eclipse or the proverbial blue moon. When they happen, they're a novelty, something that brings a smile to the faces of all the attendees. Of course, weddings aren't completely new to me. I've been in them and invited to them my whole life, but with very few exceptions, when the reception is over, so is my involvement. But these days, it seems that I'll be more and more involved.

I've known several people who have married in the past few years—mostly old acquaintances from high school. But now it seems that the engagement train is rolling full steam ahead with people I love on board, both here and in my hometown, which automatically means more responsibility for me. I will clearly need to be there for my friends in their time of planning their perfect day, and to be quite frank, I don't wanna have to beat someone up if things go south.

And honestly, I wonder how else it will affect me. I don't care about getting married right after graduation. I would like to one day but I want to get established in my career before I settle down. There are plenty of mothers out there who do it all (mine is one of them), but my ambitions include extensive travel and work abroad, and it is just a little bit harder to do that with a husband and child(ren) in tow. Still, I am completely unopposed to finding my prince and hopefully I, too, will be planning my big day one day soon... but not too soon.

Ciara is frantically checking Facebook for relationship status updates. But, of course, if you've been anywhere near Facebook in the last week, you knew that. Tell her all about it. Email her at lifestyle2006@yahoo.com.

IT'S IN THE BAG



Website Offers Temporary Designer Bags

BY JACQUELINE COOK
Hilltop Staff Writer

Gucci, Balenciaga and Chloe are only a few of the names that grace the sides of the highly coveted handbags that are also adorned with price tags that are too high for the average college student's budget.

Fashion-obsessed women everywhere seek out the must-have handbags each season. Whether they can afford a \$2,000 Fendi "B" bag or only its \$40 replica, handbag hunting is a verifiable hobby for some women.

"Some people may think it's important [to have designer handbags] but personally I don't think it is," said junior speech language pathology major Na'Jae Milton. "I do think that handbags can complete an outfit though."

According to Jennifer Goode, an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, handbags are important for non-fashion related reasons.

"As a signifier, they are used to communicate to others that the individual is of high social status," Goode said.

Those looking for a quick status boost that won't break their pockets can now turn to the website BagBorroworSteal.com. The company promises to provide customers with top quality designer handbags and jewelry for an indefinite rental period.

The site's services are comparable to the popular Netflix.com, but with a range of accessories instead of movies.

While the monthly membership fee is a nominal \$5, the cost of renting a bag is another story. Clients can rent bags by the week or month, but prices

can run anywhere from \$5 per week to \$275 per month.

BagBorroworSteal.com organizes its products into four collections based on the labels and retail prices. The Trendsetter collection is the most inexpensive, only costing renters about \$15 per month, with names like Dooney & Bourke and Coach.

The next step up is the Princess collection, which includes Betsey Johnson and Botkier and an average rental price of \$40 per month.

The higher end bags in the Diva collection, like Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton, typically rent for \$90 month.

The final collection, Couture, consists of three levels of increasing price and value. A nylon Prada bag may cost only \$175, but a Dior saddle bag may be priced at \$275 per month.

According to the site, customers can borrow as many

as five items at a time, as long as their accounts are in good standing.

Other BagBorroworSteal.com features include the "Trend Watch" and "Wedding" sections along with an outlet shop where members can purchase some of the rental bags and jewelry at discounted prices.

While the site targets those fashionistas on a budget, some young women seem wary of the service.

"It sounds really good but I probably would never use it," Milton said. "Handbags are so important that you would never want to share, especially if someone else has carried it before you."

Milton also admitted that there would be an issue when the time came to return the bag. "I would never want to let it go," Milton said.

Sophomore nursing major Patrice Furlow has a

more negative opinion of the site, stating that the service offered by BagBorroworSteal.com is "so ghetto."

"As much as you pay to rent the bag you could probably get one by the time you're done paying them," Furlow said. "That's kind of like buying clothes and keeping the tag on so that you can take it back."

BagBorroworSteal.com's merits to the side, the site may prove to be a godsend for those engrossed with society's celebrity endorsed materialism.

"The culture of valuing material possessions is not new," Goode said. "However, keeping up with the Joneses is no longer the goal, rather it is 'keeping up with the Hiltons,' or the 'Simmons,' or any other celebrity who one chooses to identify as their reference group."



Knock Out or Knockoffs: Designer vs. Bootleg Products

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Internet has recently become flooded with Web sites that allow visitors to browse designer handbags and rent them monthly. These vendors collect a massive amount of vintage and new designer bags, then "rent" them out to customers who are willing to pay a lesser price to borrow them for an extended period of time.

Once potential customers become members of a site, they are obligated to pay a monthly fee of \$5 to \$300 depending on the exclusivity and quality of a bag. If they eventually decide to buy a purse, they can purchase it at a discounted price.

Simon Slade, a sophomore finance major, thinks renting purses is an interesting concept, but is not

sure she would do it.

"I saw one of those websites and thought it was fascinating.... The fact that you can rent designer purses monthly is kind of weird, but I won't knock it," Slade said. "I just don't trust online businesses like that and that's not one I'd like to test my theory on."

A couple of years ago, a concept like renting purses from a Web site would seem superficial just to "keep up with the Joneses," but now it seems that people are more receptive to the idea. Despite the growing trend, Brittany Washington, a junior pre-pharmacy major, is firm about her opinions on bootleg products.

"I never buy knockoff bags," Washington said. "I prefer the real deal, and if I cannot afford it, I just cannot afford it. I am not trying to keep up with 'The Joneses.' I am trying to be realistic."

From the classic patterns of Louis Vuitton and Gucci, to the innovative and trendy prints of Dior, one can find almost any style they desire. Most high-end designer purses can be found in upscale department stores like Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale's and Nordstrom's. Designer Marc Jacobs sells his purses in department stores, but many like the Hermes "Birkin" are exclusive and require a waiting list to purchase.

So why are these designer bags so expensive compared to the cheaper mimics seen in Wal-Mart and Target? Louis Vuitton, which opened its first store in 1854, exclusively sells its products in its stores and raves about its quality leather.

Louis Vuitton's authentic products are known for their precise handmade craftsmanship and detail. The company is also very informed and dedi-

cated to stopping the practice of counterfeiting for several reasons. A special team, based in France, works to prevent counterfeiting by informing the public about the dangers of buying these products and where they come from. According to the company, there were 13,000 counterfeit procedures and 6,000 raids last year alone.

Jasmine Richter, a Louis Vuitton customer relations manager, thinks that it's an investment to buy authentic products.

"The quality issue is everything," Richter said. "Knockoffs use shortcuts. Our products are often made by hand and truly look luxurious, feel luxurious, and the investment is that it lasts longer."

"Our products go through a silk sheet process; a lot of times the difference between knockoffs and our products is

obvious. For instance, we use 32 different shades for our monogrammed, multicolor purses, but knockoffs generally use less," Richter said. "Less people are buying counterfeit, because of social concern. It's linked to organized crime or child labor laws."

Toni Roberts, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, has bought a knockoff, but still prefers the quality of real designer brands.

"I love Marc Jacobs because his designs are always fun and chic at the same time," Roberts said. "Louis Vuitton bags are just hot! They are made well, last long, and the designs are ever-changing."

"If you want to go designer just give up the money, because the bag will last you a lifetime, whereas if you buy a fake bag yeah you save a couple hundred, but you'll only have it for a few years," Roberts said.

WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?

We at Life and Style have noticed something. People carry their lives in their bags. Howard students have it all in the bag—whether it's a designer, knockoff or book bag. So we decided to ask students randomly to volunteer to show us what's in their bag. It gives you a chance to get a little of the spotlight and show your personality, and we get to be nosy! So clean out those receipts and any incriminating evidence. You never know if we'll ask "What's in your bag?"



What in your bag that can't you live without?

"I can't live without my books, my pink Razr phone, and my stapler. It helps to have it when I have a paper due."

—Jenea Robinson, a senior public relations major



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